

RIDLEY PARK, PA—Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) and Boeing Philadelphia hosted an awards ceremony for the 2009 Boeing Philadelphia Affinity Groups Essay Contest on Friday, April 17, 2009, at Boeing Rotorcraft Systems in Ridley Park, Pa. The Congressman was joined by Phil Dunford, Boeing Rotorcraft Systems Vice President and General Manager, and students and teachers from Academy Park High School, Garnet Valley Middle School, and Columbus Elementary School. Fifteen Delaware County students, grades 5-12, were recognized for their essays on the theme “Understanding Diversity through Education,” highlighting the accomplishments of individuals from diverse communities who have made important and lasting impacts on society. The top eight essay writers, one from each grade, received new Dell laptop computers. Seven runners-up received Barnes & Noble gift cards.

“I am thoroughly impressed by the great work all of these students,” said Congressman Sestak. “I am very pleased to help reward them for their hard work and their tremendous insight into our community. I would like to also thank Boeing for not only rewarding these great students, but helping provide them the tools they need for continued success.”

Boeing employee affinity groups have more than 500 members in the Philadelphia area. Headquartered in Ridley Park, Boeing Rotorcraft Systems is a world leader in designing, developing and manufacturing transport and combat helicopters and tiltrotor aircraft including the AH-64 Apache, CH-47 Chinook, and V-22 Osprey; designing and integrating advanced avionics and electronic flight-control systems for rotorcraft; and designing, developing and fabricating all-composite airframes and rotor blades. Boeing Rotorcraft Systems is a division of Boeing Integrated Defense Systems, a \$32 billion business with 70,000 employees worldwide.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of “Deep Blue,” the Navy’s anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the “Global War on Terrorism.” He served as President Clinton’s Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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